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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/820,944 | 04/07/2004 | Chih-Kuang Wang | 2031003 | 9720 |

7590 10/09/2007
Pro-Techtor International Services
20775 Norada Court
Saratoga, CA 95070-3018

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| EXAMINER |
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LEE, CHEUKFAN

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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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2625

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| MAIL DATE | DELIVERY MODE |
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10/09/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/820,944

Applicant(s)

WANG, CHIH-KUANG

Examiner

Cheukfan Lee

Art Unit

2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 2 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 April 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☒ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 07 April 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

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1. Claims 1-11 are pending. Claim 1 is independent.

2. This application is in condition for allowance except for the following formal matters:

In claim 1, line 2 of page 11, "the light surge" lacks antecedent basis and should be changed to – a light surge --;

line 7 of the page, "at two ends" should be changed to – at two ends thereof --;

line 8 of the page, "at two ends" should be changed to – at the two ends --;
and

line 12 of the page, "the bent parts ... is" should be changed to – the bent parts ... are --.

In claim 3, line 16 of page 11, "the inner sides" should be changed to – inner sides --; and

still line 16 of the page, "is" should read – are --.

In claim 4, line 18 of page 11, "the light angle" should read – a light angle --;

line 19 of the page, "the terminal" should read – a terminal --; and

lines 19-20 of the page, "the lens half angle" should read – a lens half angle --.

Claims 1, 3 and 4 are objected to in this Office action. Claims 2 and 5-11 are objected to as being dependent on an objected base claim. **Thus, claims 1-11 are objected to in this Office action.**

Prosecution on the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 25 USPQ 74, 453 O.G. 213, (Comm'r Pat. 1935).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this action is set to expire **TWO MONTHS** from the mailing date of this letter.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claim 1 would be allowable over the prior art of record because the prior art references, cited below, while disclosing a bent lamp having two bent parts at two ends thereof for generating the light beam, do not disclose a set of obscuring units fixed at the two bent parts at the ends of the bent lamp to partially obscure the light of the lamp, respectively, so as to repress a light surge cause at the image sensor as claimed. Thus, this feature in combination with other limitations of claim 1 is not taught by the prior art of record.

Claims 2-11 depend on claim 1.

Kawai et al. (U.S. Patent NO. 5,499,112), also cited below, discloses a set of obscuring units (306s or 307s in Figs. 14 and 15) disposed at two ends of a light guide (3) each having a light source disposed thereat to repress a light surge caused at the

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sensor. However, the light guide or light source of Kawai et al. does not have two bent parts at two ends thereof as claimed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Kawai et al. (US 5,499,112), Figs. 14-16

Lin (US 5,768,663)

Lin (US 5,950,053)

Tsai (US 6,486,978)

Watanabe (US 4,623,937), Figs. 13 and 14

Youngers et al. (US 6,037,582)

Ooki et al. (US 6,628,437)

Lu et al. (US 6,046,826)

Fujimoto et al. (US 6,496,285), Fig. 2

Minasian et al. (US 5,475,505), Figs. 6A and 6B

Sasaki et al. (US 6,583,802), Figs. 13 and 14

Sheng et al. (US Application Publication No. US 2004/0218231 A1), Fig. 8

Yoshimura Masanori (Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 05-292254 A)

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cheukfan Lee whose telephone number is (571) 272-7407. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward L. Coles can be reached on (571) 272-7402. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Cheukfan Lee
September 15, 2007